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3. A family name constructed from a genus name logically implies that said genus is the most important, and that the characters of the family are, in the main, those of this genus, while in reality the genus may be one of the least important and materially differ in its structure from that of other genera, *e. g.*, *Cassiaceae*, which is proposed for *Leguminosaceae* and *Carduaceae* for *Compositaceae*.

4. A family name should, so far as possible, describe a character common to all or a great number of genera in the family, and this seems to have been the praiseworthy aim of several of the distinguished authors to whom we owe the existing nomenclature. The fact that plants of other families may have the same character does not matter; there can be no hard and fast line in classification. For this reason I prefer *Cruciferaceae* to *Brassicaceae*, *Graminaceae* to *Poaceae*, *Coniferaceae* to *Pinaceae*, *Umbelliferaceae* to *Ammiaceae*, etc., even though it is true that umbels are also found in *Araliaceae*, and cruciform flowers in *Capparidaceae*.

5. Our main object being stable uniformity, the rule which will accomplish it with the least disturbance, and preserve the most of the familiar old names should be preferred; if priority is sufficient for the purpose we must reject the more radical and subversive rule of Mr. Barnhart.

Concerning tribal names I presume there is no question that they should invariably be formed from the root of a generic name with the addition of the termination *eae*, as is the usage of our best authors.

Reviews.

The Life and Writings of Rafinesque.—Prepared for the Filson Club and read at its Meeting, Monday, April 2, 1894. By Richard Ellsworth Call.

Filson Club Publications, No. 10. 4to, broad margins, pp. 227. *plates 5.* John P. Morton & Co., Louisville, Ky., 1895.

This splendid volume, creditable both from a literary and from an artistic standpoint, had its inception, so the preface informs us, in an attempt to clear up certain matters connected with the synonymy of the Unionidae, in which family of molluscs

Rafinesque was much interested and in which he did such valuable work.

The Filson Club is an organization having for its object the collection and preservation of original matter connected with the history of the State of Kentucky, hence the publication of this volume as a recognition of "the first resident professor-naturalist within the limits of the State."

Constantine Samuel Rafinesque [Schmaltz]* was born in Galata, near Constantinople, October 22, 1783. His father was French, his mother of German parentage. His early life was spent in France and Italy, and his first essay, written in 1796, was in the form of a journal, describing a tour to Genoa. That he early had the instincts of a naturalist is manifest, for by the time he was fifteen years old he had made collections of plants, fishes, birds and shells, and apparently took but little interest in boyish sports or games, or in association with other youths of his own age.

His first visit to America was in 1802, and here he remained, mostly in the vicinity of Philadelphia, until 1805, when he returned to Italy. There he remained for a period of ten years, during which time he wrote many papers, dealing not only with matters in connection with his surroundings, but also others based upon his observations and experiences while in America. His domestic life was unhappy, however, and doubtless had much to do with his subsequent eccentric manners. In his description of Sicily he says: "She offers * * * a fruitful soil, a delightful climate, excellent productions, perfidious men, deceitful women." In 1815 Rafinesque left Europe forever and set sail for America once more. His arrival was dramatic in the extreme, and doubtless still further heightened his pessimistic ideas. At midnight, November 2d, in a dense fog, the ship ran aground off Fisher's Island, in Long Island Sound, and all the results of his years of toil, mercantile and scientific, were lost.

He finally came to New York and accepted a position as private tutor in a wealthy family. He soon resigned this position, however, and went to Philadelphia, where he found several good friends and other persons, it seems, who were not, for we hear of him during his stay there as having been bankrupted in a business adventure and defrauded of all his savings by the falseness of a fellow-countryman, to whom he had intrusted his affairs while on his exploring expeditions into what was then called the West, between the Alleghanies and the Mississippi.

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* He added this, his mother's name, for prudential reasons, on his return to Italy, in order that he might pass for an American and thus avoid certain political complications in which he feared he might become involved.

Through the influence of one of his Philadelphia friends he secured an appointment to a professorship in the Transylvania University, at Lexington, Kentucky, upon the duties of which position he entered in the fall of 1819. Here he passed seven busy years, during which time he made extensive collections, especially in conchology and botany, wrote and published many papers, attended to his duties at the University and acted as secretary of the Kentucky Institute—the first scientific society formed within the State. One of his great ambitions seems to have been to found or to assist in the foundation of a botanic garden at Lexington, and in 1823 he presented the matter before the State Legislature with such success that the Senate psssed a bill to that effect, but it failed of passage in the Assembly. He then undertook to push the scheme by means of private subscription and the formation of a joint stock company. An act of incorporation was secured, ground was purchased and planting was actually begun, but those upon whom he relied failed to meet their obligations and the attempt was finally abandoned. This embittered and saddened him still further, and he says: " * * * this garden would have been my delight; I had traced the plan of it, with a retreat among the flowers, a greenhouse, museum and library; but I had to forsake it at last and make again my garden of the woods and mountains."

He does not seem to have been in touch with his associates in the University, who took but little interest in his scientific work, and he was doubtless impatient of their criticisms and indifference. Added to this, the students ridiculed him and finally, in June, 1825, he left Lexington and once more made his way to Philadelphia. During the next fifteen years he seems to have lived in a hand-to-mouth manner, practicing medicine in his own way, lecturing at the Franklin Institute and assisting in the establishing of a savings bank. This latter seems to have met with success, but although it was in existence at the time of his death, his end came to him amidst surroundings of absolute poverty, alone, in a garret in a poor quarter of Philadelphia in 1840.*

His estate consisted entirely of personal property—mostly books, unpublished manuscript and specimens of natural history. The latter had suffered much from his inability to properly care for them, and a large part of his plant collection was sold as waste paper. Eight dray loads comprised the material which he left behind. Some of this is yet preserved in the National Museum; another portion was secured by the University of Pennsylvania through Mr. Isaac Burk, and many of his botanical specimens finally went to the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, and the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. The final settlement of his estate left it indebted to the administrator in the sum of $14.43.

This, in brief, is the outline of his life as given in the first sixty-nine pages of the volume. Accompanying this are two portraits, one taken from a painting in the collection of the Wisconsin Historical Society, the date of which is uncertain, and another as he appeared in 1810 at the age of twenty-seven, besides which there is a photographic reproduction of one of his letters to DeCandolle, written in 1838.

Following this is a bibliography, arranged in chronologic sequence, enumerating 203 publications, containing 420 titles. It is almost impossible to conceive, in these days of specialization, the wide range of his mental activity of which these give evidence. Botany, Zoölogy, History, Social and Political Economy, Meteorology, Geology, Poetry, Philosophy, Book Reviews, Journals of Travel, Astronomy, Physics, Archaeology, Ethnology, Medicine and other subjects which might be classed as subdivisions of the above, all received his attention.

There is also a chapter devoted to a list of publications in which Rafinesque or his works are mentioned by other authors and an appendix giving a copy of his will, which, in addition to the part describing as to how he wishes his property to be disposed, contains the clause, "I wish my body to be burnt rather than buried, as I do not want to contamine the earth by decay, nor be a cause of desease to other men. My ashes, if they can be collected, I wish to be deposited in a Urn, to be kept with my collections."

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* According to an article by Thos. Meehan, published in the Philadelphia *Public Ledger* a few years ago, the exact date of which is unknown to me, Rafinesque is said to have died September 18, 1842.

Apparently his property and certainly his body, was not disposed of in accordance with either the letter or spirit of this document, and his biographer says that he "appears to have been despoiled of his rights in nomenclature while living; he was despoiled of his possessions when dead."

Many of the most interesting details contained in the volume are necessarily omitted in this review, but attention should be called, at least, to the titled headings, "Rafinesque's Name in Nomenclature," where he is commemorated both generically and specifically in botany and zoölogy; "Medals, Diplomas and Other Honors," in which a list of these, conferred upon him by scientific societies at home and abroad is given; "Rafinesque and Evolution;" "Rafinesque's Literary Style;" "Personal Appearance of Rafinesque," etc.

The volume is a model of its kind and is a fitting tribute to the versatile man whose life it memorializes. A. H.

Annual Report of the State Botanist of New York. Charles H. Peck. pp. 48 (From the 47th Report of the New York State Museum of Natural History, Albany, 1894).

Mr. Peck's report for the year 1893 contains a great deal of important and valuable information. It deals with the poisonous toadstools; gives a list of plants added to the State Herbarium, of which 40 species were not before represented, gives notes on species not before reported in any of his communications, there being 14 new Fungi here described in the genera *Psathyrella, Merulius, Stereum, Discosia, Haplosporella, Rhabdospora, Volutella, Cercospora, Peziza, Sphaerella, Clavaria, Leptothyrium, Zygodesmus, Asterula* and *Melogramma*, not all from New York State, however; and under "Remarks and Observations" we find a variety of interesting notes on distribution and on characters of numerous species. Dr. E. C. Howe contributes the description of *Carex Peckii* n. sp., the *C. Emmonsii elliptica* Boott, considering it more nearly related to *C. deflexa* than to *C. Emmonsii.* N. L. B.

Science. This weekly journal of research and discovery, abandoned for some months has been revived under most favorable circumstances and bids fair to give American students a reputable and authoritative medium of rapid and regular publication. It is published under the coöperation of the following Editorial Committee: S. Newcomb, Mathematics; R. S. Woodward, Mechanics; E. C. Pickering, Astronomy; T. C. Mendenhall, Physics; R. H. Thurston, Engineering; Ira Remsen, Chemistry; Joseph Le Conte Geology; W. M. Davis, Physiography; O. C. Marsh, Paleontology; W. K. Brooks, Invertebrate Zoölogy; C. Hart Merriam, Vertebrate Zoölogy; N. L. Britton, Botany; Henry F. Osborn, General Biology; H. P. Bowditch, Physiology; J. S. Billings, Hygiene; J. McKeen Cattell, Psychology; Daniel G. Brinton, J. W. Powell, Anthropology.

Volume I of the new series was begun January 4th, and the seven numbers so far issued are replete with matters of both general and special interest. In these days of extreme specialization and enormous publication, the student tends to confine himself to his chosen sphere of thought, and to know as much as possible about that little sphere, and it would seem in many cases as little as possible about everything else. This tendency has been especially noticable in America, and we may now hope that it will be in large measure corrected by the publication of the journal here noticed.

Manuscript intended for publication and books or papers intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison on Hudson, N. Y. The subscription is fixed at $5.00 a year and should be sent to the Publisher of Science, 41 East 49th St., New York City. We bespeak a cordial support of the enterprise by all American botanists.

Additional Notes on the new Fossil, Daimonelix; its Mode of Occurrence, its gross and minute Structure. E. H. Barbour. Univ. Studies, Univ. Neb. **2**: 1–16. *pl. 1–12.*

This exceedingly interesting contribution to the literature of problematic organisms is the second one on the subject by the author since the original "Notice of new gigantic Fossils," published in Science, **19**: 99–100. *figs. 1–3.* The name has evidently seemed somewhat provincial to the author, so he begins the paper with the modest excuse that it was adopted in deference to the ranchmen and early settlers who used to know the fossils as "Devil's corkscrews," or "fossil twisters." They have been examined by botanists, geologists and paleontologists and have been considered as plants, animal burrows and "accidents." If they are to be classed with the latter, the author justly says: "Such accidents should be immortalized." Sections examined under the microscope, however, show a structure which is cellular but not vascular, and the author concludes that they represent a new order of aquatic plants, "resembling the red sea weeds more closely than anything else." The illustrations are to be particularly commended, as they represent the location of the fossils in the field at a distance, single specimens close to, microscopic sections and a general view of the collection as it appears in the Museum of the University. A. H.

American Algae. Century I. 1894. Josephine E. Tilden, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.

The first distribution of this collection of fresh water algae from the upper Mississippi Valley has made its appearance. All the specimens, including some rare forms, are mounted upon good white card paper in a quarto volume. Labels, including descriptive details, are printed, and the material has evidently been determined and arranged with great care. The work as a whole has only commendable features. It will certainly prove to be of great value to the few herbaria who may be fortunate enough to acquire it, as the edition is limited to twenty-five copies.

A. S.

Through Glade and Mead.—Under this attractive title Mr. Joseph Jackson presents a most pleasing account of the flora of of Worcester county, Mass. This large county, extending across the centre of the State, embraces a very diversified topography. We have the high peak of Mt. Wachusett, with a few plants approaching the sub-alpine character; the rocky cliffs of Westminster, the Purgatory Chasm near Uxbridge, and many fine lakes and ponds, swamps and forests. All this region Mr. Jackson has made peculiarly his own. He takes the reader at once into his confidence, and with charming talk by the way leads him to his chosen haunts. He knows the poets well, and culls from them their sweetest thoughts. In these days, when so much of our botanical reading has an aggressive and controversial turn, it is refreshing to escape into the fens and forests. Every page in this book is odorous with wild flowers and tuneful with bees and birds.

The volume is amply illustrated by photogravure impressions of actual Worcester county scenes, or of typical wild flowers. Thus the peat-meadow given opposite to page 196 is enough to fill a botanist's soul with envy; and who would not love to wander through the path in the frontispiece?

The series of familiar papers is followed by a catalogue of the plants thus far found in the county, following the last edition of Gray's Manual as to nomenclature. The author, who is eminently fair minded, says: "In the present state of botanical nomenclature, and for the purpose for which this catalogue is intended, I have not thought it wise or necessary to adopt proposed changes not yet generally accepted. The student in such matters can easily adapt himself to changing conditions."

The press-work and general composition of the book are very satisfactory, indeed elegant. W. W. BAILEY.

The Characeae of America. T. F. Allen. Part II. Fascicle 2. Issued December, 1894. Pages 9–17, *plates 8*, species 9, illustrated.

In this fascicle Dr. Allen has described and figured three new species of *Nitella*, *N. Bastini*, *N. dilatata*, and *N. annularis*, and six others are figured and described, *N. capitata*, *N. praelonga*, *N. clavata*, *N. Macounii*, *N. axillaris*, and *N. Morongii*. E. G. B.

List of Pteridophyta and Spermatophyta growing without Cultivation in Northeastern North America. Prepared by a Committee of the Botanical Club, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 8vo, pp. 377. New York, 1893–1894.

This work, originally issued in signatures to members of the committee and such other botanists as expressed a desire for it in that form, is now sent complete, simultaneously with its appearance as Vol. 5, Memoirs of the Torrey Botanical Club.

It had its first definite inception at the Rochester, N. Y., meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1892, after the botanists there present had been engaged in an earnest consideration of the principles of plant nomenclature for many years, a subject of discussion in which most American botanists had taken part. An interchange of views between those who were present showed that while there were many differences of opinion in regard to details all were practically agreed as to certain fundamental principles. A committee was, therefore, appointed to prepare a draft of a code, which draft was subsequently presented, discussed, amended and finally adopted. This is now known as "The Rochester Code."

This committee was then continued with power to prepare and print a list of the plants embraced within the area covered by the sixth edition of Gray's Manual of Botany, with the addition of the States of Kansas and Nebraska, and the Canadian Provinces from Manitoba to Newfoundland, in accordance with the principles enunciated in the code. The committee immediately went to work and were able to present the list, in manuscript form, almost complete, at the next meeting of the Club, at Madison, Wis., in 1893.

The committee was then increased by two members, and was authorized to proceed with the printing of the list. Several minor points not determined by the Club, such as capitalization, insertion or omission of commas and use of trinomials, were referred to the committee with power, decided by vote of the members, and the final result is the volume now before us.

That it will meet with the approval of over three-fourths of the working botanists in America, we think there can be no question. The Rochester Code is and has been accepted by such a large majority that it is safe to say no work of magnitude could hope for future success here if based upon different principles. Some of the minor rules adopted in the printing, however, are not yet so generally accepted and may be expected to remain as matters of discussion for some time to come. Commas may be either omitted or retained between the specific or varietal name and the authority; capital letters may or may not be used for specific or varietal names derived from persons or places, etc., and varieties may or may not be written as trinomials. These are minor matters.

What concerns us most nearly is that, unless the citations of date of publication for some of the names should have been wrongly determined, we now have established a permanent basis for our nomenclature, and an amount of condensed study within our grasp, for which all botanists owe the committee a deep debt of gratitude. The labor of this research and of the verifications which were necessary only the members of the committee can appreciate, and we are perfectly willing to forgive, in advance, any errors in this respect which may and probably will be discovered when the list comes to be put into practical use. Each species and variety is given a consecutive number, beginning with 1. *Ophioglossum vulgatum* L., and terminating with 4336. *Ptiloria tenuifolia* (Torr.) Raf., the sequence being in accordance with Engler and Prantl's "Natürliche Pflanzenfamilien." To the list is added an appendix containing references to typographical errors, wrong determinations, changes in synonymy and about fifty additional species.

The committee to whose labors we are indebted consists of N. L. Britton, John M. Coulter, H. H. Rusby, Wm. A. Kellerman, Fredk. V. Coville, L. M. Underwood, Lester F. Ward, Edward L. Greene and Wm. Trelease.

A. H.

Proceedings of the Club.

ANNUAL MEETING, TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 8, 1895.

The President in the chair and seventeen persons present.

Mr. Leonard Barron and Rev. A. P. Ekman were elected active members.

The following officers were elected for 1895:

President, Hon. Addison Brown; Vice-Presidents, Dr. T. F. Allen, Rev. L. H. Lighthipe; Recording Secretary, Dr. Henry H. Rusby; Corresponding Secretary, John K. Small; Editor, Dr. N. L. Britton; Treasurer, Henry Ogden; Associate Editors, Dr. Emily L. Gregory, Anna Murray Vail, Arthur Hollick, Dr. Byron D. Halsted, A. A. Heller; Curator, Josephine E. Rogers; Librarian, Effie A. Southworth.

Under the reading of communications, a letter was read from Prof. Dr. A. Cogniaux accepting the honorary member-